

PATENT

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DU PETROLE

**METHOD OF OPTIMIZING THE OPERATION OF A SIMULATED
COUNTERCURRENT XYLENES SEPARATION UNIT**Inventors : Nicolas COUENNE and Luc WOLFF

ABSTRACT

- Method of optimizing the operation of a unit intended for separation of the components of a feed (xylenes) by simulated countercurrent in hybrid operating mode.
- The method allows to minimize the solvent ratio and to maximize the capacity of the separation unit while keeping product specifications such as purity and yield constant. It has been verified that these two objectives cannot be reached simultaneously and it is recommended to operate with a minimum solvent ratio while guaranteeing a high capacity compatible with stable operation of the separation unit. These optimization objectives are reached while keeping good stability around the optimum point thus defined, by using a known operation control process such as the one described in patent EP-875,268 for example.